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FOOD PATTY MOLDING MACHINE

Abstract of the Disclosure

A food patty molding machine of the type utilizing a linearly reciprocable mold plate utilizes a direct rotary actuator drive which provides virtually direct linear transfer of the drive force to the ends of the linear drive shafts which support the mold plate. This results in the virtual elimination of high wear lateral loads. An encoder is directly linked to the rotary actuator drive shaft to provide accurate mold plate position signals which are utilized to control the operation of completely independently driven knock-out devices and to control operation of the feed ram during the feed stroke. Servo valve control of the hydraulic power unit which drives the rotary actuator and the feed ram cylinders also responds to suitably processed encoder signals to provide a wide range of speed and position control.